

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4 will be cancelled, and claims 5 and 6 will remain pending in the present application.

As an initial matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 5 and 6.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zendler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,517) in view of Winterling (U.S. Patent No. 7,017,629), and objected to claims 2-4 for being dependent upon rejected claim 1.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-4 will be cancelled, merely to advance prosecution of the present application to issue. Thus, the cancellation of these claims should not be taken as an acquiescence to the propriety of the rejection.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant recognizes that the current status of the present application is after-Final. However, Applicant submits that entry of the present amendment is proper under the current circumstances, as the amendment does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. In this regard, the present amendment merely cancels claims 1-4.


Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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